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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/771,366

01/25/2001

Dirk Basting

LMPY-9220

6443

7590

05/06/2004

STALLMAN & POLLOCK, LLP

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, DUNG T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2828

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/771,366

Applicant(s)

BASTING ET AL.

Examiner

Dung (Michael) T Nguyen

Art Unit

2828

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 February 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-43 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ershov et al. (US6381257).

With respect to claims 1-3, 7-25, 31-33, 37, and 41-43, Ershov disclose in Fig.2 an excimer or molecular fluorine laser, comprising a discharge chamber filled with a gas mixture including molecular fluorine; a plurality of electrodes within the discharge chamber connected to a pulsed discharge circuit for energizing the gas mixture; two resonator reflector surfaces disposed on opposite

sides of the discharge chamber; a line-narrowing module 18 adjacent to one of the resonator reflector surfaces and including one or more optical elements (15, Fig.5M), wherein the discharge chamber, resonator reflector surfaces, and line-narrowing module 18 form a resonator for generating a laser beam, a sealed enclosure (col.29, 1.50-67 and col.30, 1.1-24) (Fig.12) around one or more optical elements of the line-narrowing module, wherein the sealed enclosure includes an inert gas inlet for filling the sealed enclosure with an inert gas (Fig. 17A-17D and 22E) and wherein the sealed enclosure is separate from any other enclosure used to exclude photoabsorbing species and contaminants from the beam path; and a processor 22 including means for monitoring the wavelength of the beam, the processor further including means for controlling the pressure of the inert gas within the sealed enclosure for tuning the wavelength output by the line-narrowing module 18, wherein the line-narrowing module includes: a beam expander 37 disposed in a path of the laser beam and including one or more optical elements for expanding the beam and reducing a divergence of the beam (Fig.12); an interferometric device (col.12, 1.1-33) and (col.13, 1.1-36), a reflection grating 38 disposed in the path of the laser beam; and a heat sink (Fig. 17A-17D) in thermal contact with the reflection grating 38.

With respect to claims 4-6 and 38-39, Ershov disclose in Fig.12 the beam expander 37 includes one or more prisms 37A-37C.

With respect to claims 26 and 29, Ershov disclose an ArF laser emitting at a wavelength of 193 nm (col.1, 1.23-24).

With respect to claim 27, Ershov disclose in Fig.6E an etalon output coupler (EOC).

With respect to claim 28, Ershov disclose a molecular fluorine laser emitting around 157 nm (col.1, 1.24-25).

With respect to claims 30 and 40, Ershov disclose a KrF laser emitting around 248 nm (col.1, 1.18-21).

With respect to claims 34-36, Ershov disclose CaF₂ (col.13, 1.31-32).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Communication Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dung (Michael) T Nguyen whose telephone

number is (571) 272-1949. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 17:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-3329.

Michael Dung Nguyen


TAN HO
PRIMARY EXAMINER